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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re patent application of
Howell et al.

Serial No. 09/526,394

Filed: March 16, 2000

Group Art Unit: 2811

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Mohammad S. Rahman

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. '1.111

Sir:

This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed December 4, 2003.

Therefore, this amendment is timely filed. Please amend the above-identified patent application
as follows: